

What is VacTrAK?

VacTrAK is the new web-based Immunization Information System ("registry") from the Alaska Division of Public Health. *VakTrAK* provides a confidential, population-based, computerized system to maintain immunization information for Alaskans of all ages.

What are the benefits of using *VacTrAK*?

VacTrAK will allow you to:

- Obtain consolidated immunization records for your patients;
- Reduce staff time spent tracking down records;
- Forecast future immunizations needed;
- Improve the accuracy of your immunization data;
- Generate automated reminder/recall notices for your patients;
- Produce official immunization records to meet school & childcare facility requirements;
- Assess immunization completion rates at your facility; and
- (in the future) Electronically order vaccine, manage your inventory, & submit state-required reports.

How will I access VacTrAK?

VacTrAK is accessible from any PC that has internet access and a web browser. Of course, confidentiality procedures will ensure that only authorized users may enter the system.

Will VacTrAK be compatible with my clinic's existing electronic medical record system?

For clinics with existing electronic systems, *VacTrAK* Support can set up a data exchange process that sends batch data directly to *VacTrAK* from an electronic medical record or from a practice management system. *VacTrAK* can accept a broad range of flat text files and HL7 messages. A minimal data set will be required for patient deduplication.

What will *VacTrAK* participation cost my practice?

There are no direct costs from the State of Alaska for participation in *VacTrAK*. Any costs incurred in the office setting ultimately should be offset by overall time savings. For example, national studies have shown that, without an immunization information system, the average cost to manually retrieve, review, update and re-file a record is \$14.50. In addition, many hours of staff time are devoted to obtaining immunization information from other providers and/or sharing information with schools. Every effort is being made to minimize the impact on medical offices and help improve upon existing processes. Participating in *VacTrAK* may provide some initial challenges, but the payoff will be savings for your practice in the long run.

How much time is required to enter a patient's immunization record directly into VacTrAK?

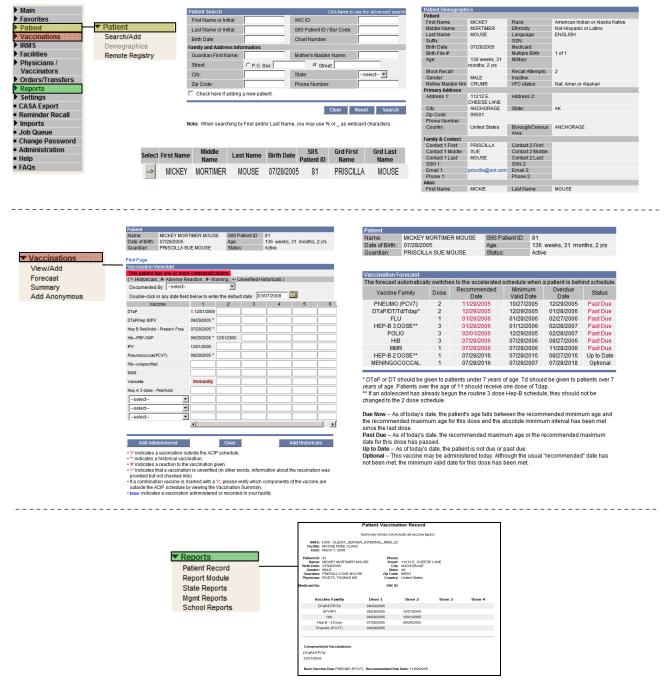
If a patient is *completely* new to the system, it may take 2-3 minutes to enter the record. However, in the future *VacTrAK* will be populated with birth certificate data, which will minimize the time required for entry of demographic information for children. In addition, as the system matures and more providers are inputting data, the greater the likelihood that a patient will already be established in the system. As staff time is shifted toward updating records rather than establishing new ones, the time required for data entry will decrease.

When can I begin using VacTrAK?

The first step is to obtain an enrollment application and return it completed to *VacTrAK* Support. At that point, a more detailed timeline including testing and training will be established to fit your clinic's schedule.

What will VacTrAK look like? Will it be "user friendly"?

Many other states and local communities have utilized the system which has been procured for use in Alaska, allowing us to benefit from the experience of providers throughout the country. In addition, Alaska will establish a *VacTrAK User Group* to provide input on system functionality and requested improvements. Examples of typical screens that will be seen by users are shown below.



Where can I get additional Information?

Information about *VacTrAK* availability will be shared with immunization providers directly and through associations such as the AAP and AAFP. Information also will be announced through publications such as the *Epidemiology Bulletin*. Providers also may contact the Alaska Immunization Program as shown below.

VacTrAK Support

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